

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH


<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: Gordon Bunch (213) 251-6413  
Fax: [gbunch@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:gbunch@dmh.lacounty.gov)

April 23, 2012

TO: Executive Directors  
Legal Entity Contract Providers  
MHSA Contract Provider Technological Needs Project

FROM: Robert Greenless, Ph.D.  
Chief Information Officer 

SUBJECT: **INTEGRATED SYSTEM (IS) SHUT DOWN AND ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE READINESS (EDI)**

This is to inform you that the contract between the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Integrated System vendor (Sierra Systems) is scheduled to terminate December 31, 2014. Upon termination of its agreement with Sierra Systems, DMH must shutdown the IS and cut-over to the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS). Unlike the IS, Contractors will not have access to the IBHIS for direct data entry (DDE). Contractors must be EDI capable and certified for the submission of claims and other DMH-defined transactions, and the receipt of remittance advices via EDI, at least three to six months in advance of the shutdown of the IS. Contractors who are not certified by DMH for EDI by this deadline will not have a means to submit claims for mental health services delivered, and DMH will not have a mechanism in place other than EDI to process and reimburse Contractors for services rendered.

DMH encourages its Contractors who are not currently using an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system with EDI capability to pursue implementations of an EDI capable EHR system as soon as possible to transition from DDE into the IS to submission of electronic transactions to DMH via EDI. Another option is to seek the services of an EDI capable Billing Service or Clearinghouse, but this option precludes the potential benefits of transitioning your agency to an EHR system.

Eligible Legal Entity contract services providers within the DMH network were allocated Mental Health Services Act Capital Facilities and Technological Needs funds in 2009 through the Contract Provider Technological Needs Project. These funds may be used to partially offset the costs of acquiring, implementing, and upgrading to EDI-capable EHR systems. Contractors who are currently certified by DMH for EDI may use Technological Needs funds for EHR maintenance or upgrade projects or other projects consistent with State Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Guidelines. Legal Entity contract services providers who have not submitted project proposals to access these funds are encouraged to do so as soon as possible as the proposal review and approval process takes approximately four to six months. Additionally, those who delay may find it difficult to complete the EHR implementation process timely as implementations may take many months to a year or more and demands for EHR vendor resources may be highest in the months just prior to the IS shutdown.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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If you have questions regarding Technological Needs funds that may be available to your agency, please contact Gordon Bunch at (213) 251-6413, or at [gbunch@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:gbunch@dmh.lacounty.gov). Information regarding the Technological Needs proposal submission process is located at the Contract Provider Transition Team website at the following address:

[http://lacdmh.lacounty.gov/hipaa/EDI\\_MHSA\\_IT\\_Project.htm](http://lacdmh.lacounty.gov/hipaa/EDI_MHSA_IT_Project.htm) .

RG:GB:jh

c: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Robin Kay, Ph.D.  
Bruce Saltzer (ACHSA)